

# JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT

## ANNUAL REPORT

### AUGUST - 2010



#### Mission Statement:

*To preserve natural resources for public use and conservation, to operate and maintain a parks system with resource oriented recreation, trails and specialty parks; and to expand the parks system for environmental and land use benefits and the health and enjoyment of Jefferson County residents.*

t is made up of 15 (full and part-time) employees that  
 nately 900 acres at the 16 County Parks, 6.5 miles of  
 s of public snowmobile trails. In addition, the Parks  
 d properties acquired through the flood mitigation  
 program and performs grounds maintenance for all Jefferson County facilities.

We, as a department, are very proud of the Parks System and are happy to share with you  
 some of the highlights from the past year.

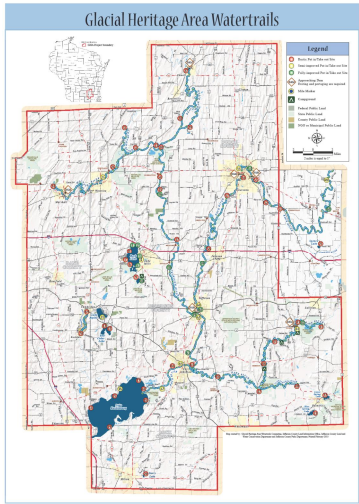
**Glacial Heritage Area**

The Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) was approved by the Natural  
 Resources Board and the Jefferson County Board in 2009.

The GHA is a network of recreation and conservation lands  
 centered primarily in western Jefferson County. The project  
 seeks to help meet the growing demand for a wide range of  
 outdoor, nature-based land and water recreation activities while protecting natural habitats.



Since the adoption of the GHA, the implementation team has been hard at work. WI DNR has  
 purchased Holzheuter Park and Wildlife Area. This park hopes to feature mountain biking trails.  
 Darin Newman, a student through the School of Landscape Architecture at UW-Madison,  
 completed a project titled, %Holzheuter Farm Park.+We are currently working with DNR to  
 establish a memorandum of understanding for the operation of the property.



The Watertrails Map and Guide debuted in the spring of 2010.  
 Watertrials are recreational waterways on a lake, river or creek,  
 between specific points, containing access points for the boating  
 public. Watertrails emphasize low-impact use and promote  
 stewardship of natural resources. The project started when the  
 Jefferson County Parks Department received a \$5,000 grant from  
 the WI DNR to develop a print-ready, fold-out map containing  
 wayfinding and route guidance information including existing put-  
 in/take-out sites, water trail distances, route descriptions, places of  
 interest along paddlable waters and suggested route options on  
 river and stream systems in the project area. Rebecca Mehringer,  
 consultant, was hired to coordinate and produce the map. A Paddling  
 Committee was formed, and the rest is history. The members of the  
 committee scouted sites, contacted property owners, raised the  
 money, etc. In all, \$32,400 has been raised to date. The Jefferson

County Parks Department and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are sincerely  
 appreciative of the hard work of the volunteers and the businesses and organizations that  
 partnered together for a common goal.

Committee members included: John McKenzie, James Kerler, Carl Glassford, Rachel Primmer,  
 Chad Dallman, Dick Wanie, Steve Grabow, Kim Grunow, Greg David, Dick David, Steve Cline,  
 Gerald Kokkonen, Andy Erdman, Steve Miller, John Pohlman, Rebecca Mehringer, Peter  
 Jacobs, and Joe Nehmer

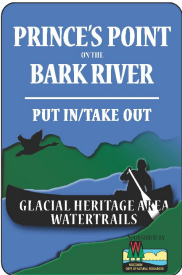


*Your complimentary use period has ended. Thank you for using PDF Complete.*

[Click Here to upgrade to Unlimited Pages and Expanded Features](#)

pe, Ducks Unlimited, Earl & Eugenia Quirk Foundation, Fort HealthCare, Fort Wisconsin Club, Heather's Bicycle Club, Johnson Bank of Fort Atkinson, Friends Association, Modern Woodmen Insurance, Norm's Hideaway Bar & Grill, Pickets Country Store, Rock River Coalition, Inc., Schreiber Anderson Associates, Inc., Subway, Sunset Bar & Grill, Town & Country RC&D, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Sign Sponsorships included: Fort Atkinson Community Foundation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Earl and Eugenia Quirk Foundation, Inc., Fort Wisconsin Club, Fort Community Credit Union, Friends of Aztalan State Park, Hebron Helping Hands 4-H Club, Jefferson Rotary Club, LanDesign, Patten's Marine, John & Wendy McKenzie, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Rock River Canoe Company, Rock Lake Trooper 4-H Club, WaterHouse Foods Café & Bakehouse, Watertown Rotary Club, and Watertown Main Street Program Inc.



### Korth Park



Korth Park continues to be one of the more popular parks within Jefferson County. The new Korth Park Pavilion, completed in the fall of 2008, is highly desirable and is seeing strong rental usage. It also received the 2009 Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association Park Section Design Award of Excellence.

The Jefferson County Highway Department completed the paving of the parking lot adjacent to the shelter.

The Parks Department is working in coordination with the Friends of Korth Park to remove invasive species.

Korth Community Gardens were established with a grant from ATC. There are 12 plots, all of which are rented this season.



### Dr. J. S. Garman Nature Preserve

Development of the Dr. J. S. Garman Nature Preserve continues. Accomplishments over the last year include additional trail development, tree removal, installation of a trail-head kiosk, and paving of a 10 car parking lot. The parking lot paving was made possible through a generous donation from Ms. Theo Garman. We are thankful for her continued support of the park.



In partnership with the City of Waterloo, a joint Stewardship Grant Application was submitted for development of a pavilion, bathrooms, trails and signage. The grant was not awarded in 2009 but has been resubmitted in 2010. Award notification has not been received as of the writing of this report. This project is designed as a multiple phase project that will be incorporated over several years.



Jefferson County Dog Park.

Development at the park continued with the addition of a maintenance shed to store equipment and supplies on site. In addition, Meghann Robb was hired as a part-time dog park attendant to assist park users with compliance of tags and rules as well as provide education and general maintenance. The presence of the dog park attendant has been well received. Patrons are very appreciative of the enforcement assistance as well as the public input that can be provided through her. As of June 30, we have already surpassed 1,009 annual tag record set in 2009.



The Jefferson County Dog Park continues to be the recipient of numerous donations. Pictured above are Rick and Mary Olson of Modern Woodman of America which sponsored a fundraiser that raised \$5,000 towards play equipment. Pictured at left is Jefferson County Parks Department Program Assistant Kim Buchholz accepting a donation to the Jefferson County Dog Park from Kelly Travers's advisory class, the Millennium Force at the Jefferson Middle School. The Millennium Force raised money

through a Service Learning Project and decided to donate all proceeds to the park. On August 14, the Purina Dog Team will be performing at the Dog Park for a fundraiser to celebrate Nestle Purina's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Jefferson County and on August 29 the Dog Dayz of Summer, a fun dog swim event, will be held at the Jefferson Family Aquatic Center. The Parks Department is extremely grateful to the many individuals and organizations that continually provide support for this great asset in Jefferson County.

### **Dorothy Carnes County Park**

A new sign was purchased utilizing donations for the park. Pictured are Genevieve Westphal, sister (on the left) and Jessie Belstner, sister and Fay Carnes, brother of Dorothy Carnes. Dorothy Carnes Park is named in honor of Dorothy Carnes, the mother of Carol Liddle. Carol Liddle was a great supporter of parks within Jefferson County. Dorothy Carnes Park, composed of five different land parcels, was acquired with gifts and donations covering 95% of the purchase price. Jefferson County is grateful to the Carnes family for the legacy they have left to the citizens of Jefferson County with their vision for preserving pristine lands through the parks system.



Margaret Burlingham of LanDesign completed the comprehensive master planning process for the park. It was adopted by the County Board in October, 2009.

Hearty Gardens, coordinated by Josie Gobel, continues to be a strong community activity with all garden plots being rented.

The Parks Department continues to work on restoring the wooded acres to the original oak savannah. Prairie burns were also completed.

The Friends of Rose Lake continue to be an instrumental part of the success of Dorothy Carnes Park. They have developed a self-guided walking tour brochure.

### **Hubbleton Snowmobile Bridge**

The Hubbleton Snowmobile Bridge project was completed by Radtke Contractors, Inc. with Westbrook Engineering overseeing the project in combination with the Parks Department.



### **Snowmobile Trails Maintenance**

Jefferson County has 182.7 miles of public snowmobile trails. The County trails are funded by grants obtained by the Jefferson County Parks Department from the Wisconsin Snowmobile Grant in Aid Program. The Jefferson County Snowmobile Alliance works closely with the Parks Department to ensure a safe snowmobile trail system. The Parks Department was recently awarded the grant for the 2010-2011 season of \$45,675.

### **Bicycle Planning and Projects**



Schreiber Anderson, the consultant hired to update the Jefferson County Bikeway and Pedestrianway Plan, completed the update. The project was possible through the many partnerships with local governments and the private sector including Fort HealthCare, Jefferson County Bike Club, Trek Bicycle, WE Energies, through the Wisconsin Energy Corporation Foundation, Village of Cambridge, City of Fort Atkinson, City of Jefferson, County of Jefferson, Town of Oakland, City of Waterloo, City of Watertown and the

University of Wisconsin Extension providing educational guidance. Numerous non-levy funded bike trail projects are currently taking place.

### **Parks Huber Program**

The Parks Department continues to work with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department utilizing inmates as Park laborers. Three individuals over the past year have worked through this program.

10-year Forest Stewardship Management Plans for Rock Lake Park, Dog Park and Dorothy Carnes Park.

These plans were written by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. A timber sale is being planned for Kanow Park. Ultimately, the timber sales will bring in additional revenue for the Parks Department.

### **Park Shelter Rentals**

2010 has already surpassed the record setting 2009 shelter rentals. As of July 2, there were 100 rentals. The most popular shelters to rent are the shelters at Korth, Dorothy Carnes, Welcome Travelers and Lower Rock Lake Parks. In addition, the Parks Department is seeing an increase in advanced rental reservations; we already have eight events booked for 2011.

### **Various Projects**

The Jefferson County Parks Department is looking at the possibility of a disc golf course.

### **Staffing Changes**

The Jefferson County Parks Department has seen a number of changes within its staffing this year. Parks Operations Supervisor Chad Dallman resigned for a position with the City of Oshkosh. His replacement, Kevin Weismann from Flagstaff, Arizona, will begin on July 26.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Parks Department continues to go through many challenges with the many changes that have occurred due to budget and staffing, which in turn create new opportunities. We would like to thank the Parks Committee, and in particular Chairman Borland, for his steady guidance.